

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR 1979 WARC - AUSTRALIAN VISIT

REF: (A) MELBOURNE 0853; (B) MELBOURNE 1230

1. DEPARTMENT HAD PLANNED TO SEND SMALL U.S. TEAM TO AUSTRALIA IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER TO CONTINUE WARC DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, AS D'ARCEY WILL UNDERSTAND, THE PRINCIPAL U.S. PARTICIPANTS ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL WARC PREPARATIONS AND IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO FINALIZE PLANS FOR CONSULTATIONS. IN PARTICULAR U.S. HAS BEEN GETTING READY FOR MAJOR BILATERAL WITH USSR IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MOSCOW FOLLOWED BY NATO/ARFA JOINT MEETING IN BRUSSELS DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER, AS WELL AS INTENSIVE PREPARATION FOR CCIR/SPM.

2. IN SPITE OF FULL SCHEDULE DEPARTMENT IS STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN HOLDING TALKS AT EARLIEST - CONVENIENT DATE. ALL FACTORS CONSIDERED WE FEEL THAT

MOST BENEFICIAL SITUATION WOULD BE A 3-DAY MEETING IN WASHINGTON DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 16 (MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY). PROPOSED DATE AND VENUE ASSUMES THAT AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE ALL OR PART OF THEIR DELEGATION TO THE CCIR MEETING, WHICH STARTS OCTOBER 23 IN GENEVA. ALL OF KEY U.S. PARTICIPANTS AND INTERESTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATIONS.

3. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE, IF TALKS ARE TO BE HELD PRIOR TO CCIR MEETING, IS FOR A SPECIALIZED U.S. TEAM TO VISIT AUSTRALIA DURING LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OR FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER. TEAM WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT CONTAIN ANY OF PRINCIPAL U.S. SPOKESMEN, BUT WOULD BE FULLY ABLE TO REPORT ON CURRENT U.S. VIEWS AND THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN REACHING THOSE VIEWS. IF THERE ARE SPECIFIC OR HIGHLY SPECIALIZED AREAS WHICH THE AUSTRALIANS WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD TRY TO INCLUDE APPROPRIATE EXPERT(S) ON THE TEAM.

4. IT IS HOPED THAT D'ARCEY AND OTHERS WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR FULL DISCUSSIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF 1979 WARC. ALTERNATIVELY WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT DISCUSSION ITEMS IF U.S. IS TO SEND A LIMITED TEAM TO MELBOURNE. ADVISE. CHRISTOPHER

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